

## **Dufferin County – Men's Homelessness Service Providers Survey**

### **Informed Consent**

You are invited to take part in an online survey (approx. 20 mins [will time this once survey is finalized]) being conducted by the Research Shop, part of the Community Engaged Scholarship Institute at the University of Guelph. The purpose of this survey is to collect information from Dufferin County residents regarding their understanding of homelessness as it affects men in this area. This project is being completed at the request of, and in partnership with, the Dufferin County Homeless Taskforce.

Community members are also being surveyed, which can be shared and accessed here.

Feedback from the survey will:

- a) Capture community perspectives and understandings of men's homelessness
- B) Identify strengths and opportunities for growth in service provision
- b) Help inform local strategies to address men's homelessness

There are no expected risks or benefits to participating in the survey. Some people may find this topic challenging to engage with; some people may appreciate the opportunity to share their perspectives.

Your participation in the survey is completely voluntary. You may skip any questions that you are not comfortable answering or stop the survey at any time. All submitted responses are anonymous and will be kept confidential. Only the research team will have access to the individual survey responses. E-surveys are kept in a password protected software program. Direct quotes may be included. That is, we may use the exact words from your written surveys to answer our research questions, in the written and final version of our findings.

The overall research findings will be shared with the Dufferin County Homeless Taskforce. You can access these finding through the Dufferin County Homeless Taskforce. It will also be available on CESI's website [www.cesinstitute.ca](http://www.cesinstitute.ca).

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Karen Nelson, Research Shop Coordinator, at [knelson@uoguelph.ca](mailto:knelson@uoguelph.ca).

☐ I have read the above and consent to participate in this research project.

## Dufferin County – Men's Homelessness Service Providers Survey

Our definition of men encompasses cisgender men, transgender men, genderqueer men, and two-spirit, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people who are man-aligned.

In this project, homelessness is defined as being (1) unsheltered, (2) emergency sheltered, (3) provisionally accommodated, and (4) at risk of homelessness (Kauppi et al. 2017).

- Unsheltered: No access to shelter or living in places not intended for human habitation (e.g., in vehicles, in garages, attics, buildings, or other spaces not designed as housing, in makeshift shelters, RVs and trailers, or tents).
- Emergency sheltered: Living in housing following crisis such as abuse, natural disaster, or damage to current home (e.g., domestic violence, fire, floods)
- Provisionally accommodated: Insecure housing supports offered by an individual's network for a limited period of time (e.g., couch surfers, night-to-night motel or hostel rentals, in or transitioning out of institutional care such as release from prison, residential treatment, group home).
- At risk of homelessness: Precarious living situations that may end at any time (e.g., life crises, inappropriate or substandard housing, other risk factors)

1. Where is your program located? Check all that apply.

- a. Amaranth
- b. East Garafraxa
- c. Grand Valley
- d. Melancthon
- e. Mono
- f. Mulmur
- g. Orangeville
- h. Shelburne
- i. Other: (please list)

2. Indicate the types of services you/your agency provides to people experiencing homelessness (Check all that apply to a matrix of not offered, sometimes offered, offered regularly, don't know)

- a. Food bank
- b. Soup kitchen or meal distribution
- c. Clothing bank
- d. Drop-in centre
- e. Outreach services
- f. Emergency warmth/cooling services
- g. Emergency shelter
- h. Transitional housing
- i. Permanent social housing
- j. Housing search services
- k. Rent supplements

- l. Assistance with utility arrears
  - m. Assistance with rent/mortgage
  - n. Repair or replacement services
  - o. Employment services
  - p. Legal/court assistance
  - q. Addiction & Substance Use Program
  - r. Mental health care services
  - s. Physical health care services
  - t. Recreation
  - u. Life skills education
  - v. Other
    - i. Please list... *(Open text)*
3. How are people with lived experiences involved in shaping services and supports in your agency? *(Open text box)*
  4. Does your service or agency have a specific mandate for supporting **men** experiencing homelessness? *(Select one)*
    - a. Yes
    - b. No
    - c. Don't know
  5. Do you keep data on men experiencing homelessness who access your services? *(Check one)*
    - a. Yes, only Dufferin County's by-name list
    - b. Yes, other
      - i. Please list current strategies... *(Open text box)*
    - c. No
    - d. Don't know
  6. In the past 12 months, approximately how many men have you interacted with through your services who are currently experiencing homelessness? *(Enter number)*
  7. Is this a typical number, based on your knowledge and experience? *(Check one)*
    - a. Yes, this rate is consistent
    - b. No, this rate is typically much lower
    - c. No, this rate is typically a bit lower
    - d. No, this rate is typically much higher
    - e. No, this rate is typically a bit higher
    - f. This rate varies higher and lower considerably
    - g. Don't know
  8. From your perspective, what are the main causes for men's homelessness in your community? *(Rank order)*
    - a. Housing is unaffordable
    - b. Housing is inaccessible
    - c. Unemployment and underemployment
    - d. Lack of resources to support men's needs
    - e. Mental health and addiction
    - f. Exposure to trauma/adversity
    - g. Social exclusion

- h. Other
    - i. Please list... *(Open text)*
- 9. Based on your experience, how vulnerable to homelessness are the following groups? *(Matrix from no risk, low risk, moderate risk, high risk, don't know)*
  - a. Men with substance abuse issues
  - b. Men (18+) without children
  - c. Single fathers
  - d. Indigenous men
  - e. Senior (60+) men
  - f. Men who identify with LGBTQIA2S+
  - g. Immigrants
  - h. Refugees
  - i. Visible minorities
  - j. People with military service/veterans
  - k. Men with history in the foster care system
  - l. Men with a disability
  - m. Other
    - i. Please list... *(Open text box)*
- 10. Are you aware of any other local services or agencies that have a specific mandate for supporting **men** experiencing homelessness? *(Select one)*
  - a. Yes
    - i. Please list... *(Open box)*
  - b. No
  - c. Don't know
- 11. How well served are unhoused men in each of the following locations? *(Slider for each option from 'no access to services' to 'comprehensive access to services')*
  - a. Amaranth
  - b. East Garafraxa
  - c. Grand Valley
  - d. Melancthon
  - e. Mono
  - f. Mulmur
  - g. Orangeville
  - h. Shelburne
- 12. What successes and challenges have you found when referring to or accessing these services? *(Open text box)*
- 13. What are some potential benefits and challenges with specializing services for men only? *(Open text box)*
- 14. What gaps remain in service provision? *(Open text box)*
- 15. Does your service agency have capacity to address any of the required services that you identified?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Don't Know

16. What would your agency require to provide additional services? Check all that apply.
- a. No need to increase services
  - b. Increased funding
  - c. Shifted funding structures
  - d. Increased staff
  - e. Shifted staff roles
  - f. Greater collaboration between agencies
  - g. Space
  - h. Equipment
  - i. Volunteers
  - j. Change in policy
  - k. Change in organizational approach
  - l. Change in community perspectives
  - m. Greater understanding from those with lived experiences
  - n. Don't know
  - o. Other
17. How effective is Dufferin County in each of the following ways of addressing men's homelessness (*Sliding scale from very well to not well at all; don't know*)
- a. Preventing men's homelessness
    - i. Explain (*Open text box*)
  - b. Reducing men's homelessness
    - i. Explain (*Open text box*)
  - c. Eliminating men's homelessness
    - i. Explain (*Open text box*)
18. How well is a 'housing first' approach implemented in Dufferin County? A 'housing first' approach prioritizes connecting people with stable housing and then once they are housed, continues to build on their strengths and goals to engage with other supportive services. (*Sliding scale from very well to not well at all; don't know*)
19. Are there circumstances unique to Dufferin County that need to be considered in understanding the context of men's access to housing? (*Select one*)
- a. Yes
    - i. If yes, please explain... (*Open text*)
  - b. No
    - i. Don't Know
20. Is there anything else you would like to share on how homeless men can be better served in Dufferin County. (*Open text*)